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20 October 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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West Berlin: West Berliners, despite an outward appearance of confidence and calmness, are more uneasy and worried than at any time in the past two years, according to US Mission officials in West Berlin. There is an almost unanimous feeling among West Berlin government, business, and press leaders that the United States does not comprehend what a significant impact the sealing off of the Western sector by the Communists has had on the over-all Berlin problem. West Berliners view the Communist wall as a major victory for the Ulbricht regime by virtue of its unilateral and unopposed alteration of the status quo. West Berliners feel that the failure of the West to take countermeasures has encouraged the Communists to be tougher and that mere Western emphasis on its determination to protect "vital interests" is ineffective against Khrushchev's "salami" tactics.

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NATO: Secretary General Stikker presented to a restricted North Atlantic Council meeting on 16 October a "personal proposal" for a Berlin solution which would maintain much of the status quo, while designating West Berlin a free city. The proposal in essence calls for the United States, Britain, and France to conclude a treaty with West Germany and for the end of the occupation status of West Berlin. In private discussions with a US official, Stikker explained that he presented his proposal because he believes there is a ground swell of West European opinion against basing the Western position in Berlin solely on "outdated" occupation rights.

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France-Algeria: Moslem observance on 22 October of the 5th anniversary of the French kidnaping of rebel vice premier Mohamed Ben Bella may cause further clashes between Europeans and Moslems in either Algeria or metropolitan France. Other clashes will almost certainly occur during the Algerian-wide Moslem demonstrations scheduled by the provisional Algerian government (PAG) for 1 November. Two members of the PAG who lunched with Secretary Williams on 17 October said that strict orders would be issued that the 1 November demonstrations be peaceful, but that European provocations "backed by certain local authorities" could quickly produce violence. The PAG members indicated that the rebels would accept this risk, as the demonstrations were "compulsory" in view of PAG efforts to increase its influence over the Algerian population.

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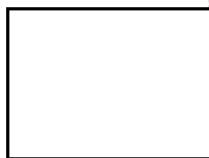
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Burma - Nationalist China: [The recent movement of remnants of Chinese irregulars from Thailand to Burma may spark an anti-American press campaign in Rangoon. Ambassador Everton believes that the activity of the irregulars could provide a continuing excuse for the presence of Chinese Communist troops in Burma. Thai officials are also concerned on this point and, during a forthcoming goodwill mission to Rangoon, may discuss means for settling the irregular problem. The]

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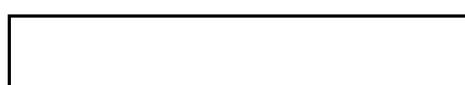


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Thais do not wish, however, to use their army against the irregulars.

Rangoon newspapers have prominently reported the movement of about 600 irregulars into the southeastern Shan State, and an army controlled newspaper has hinted at American and Thai support of these forces. After the evacuation to Taiwan of 3,477 irregulars in early 1961, an estimated 3,000-3,500 remained in the area. Of these, 1,200 are believed to be in Thailand, 400-600 in Laos, and 1,200-1,600 now in Burma.

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